

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

April 23, 2014
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Chair	Mayor Rebecca Jimenez, Guadalupe
Mayor W. J. “Jim” Lane, Scottsdale, Treasurer	Mayor Thomas Schoaf, Litchfield Park
* Vice Mayor Robin Barker, Apache Junction	Mayor Christian Price, City of Maricopa
Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale	* Supervisor Steve Chucuri, Maricopa County
# Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye	Mayor Alex Finter, Mesa
Councilmember Mike Farrar, Carefree	# Mayor Scott LeMarr, Paradise Valley
* Councilmember Reginald Monachino, Cave Creek	* Councilmember Cathy Carlat, Peoria
# Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix
Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage	* Supervisor Todd House, Pinal County
Mayor Tom Rankin, Florence	Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
* President Ruben Balderas, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	* President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mayor Linda Kavanagh, Fountain Hills	* Mayor Sharon Wolcott, Surprise
Mayor Steven Holt, Gila Bend	Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
* Governor Gregory Mendoza, Gila River Indian Community	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Mayor John Lewis, Gilbert	* Mayor John Cook, Wickenburg
Mayor Jerry Weiers, Glendale	Jack Sellers, State Transportation Board
Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear	Joseph La Rue, State Transportation Board
	# Roc Arnett, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee

* Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Attended by telephone conference call.

+ Attended by videoconference

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the MAG Regional Council was called to order by Chair Michael LeVault at 11:33 a.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor Jackie Meck, Mayor Scott LeMarr, and Mr. Roc Arnett participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Chair LeVault provided comments on becoming Chair of the Regional Council. He stated that the Regional Council looks for ways to reach out to others and they act in the best interests of the region. He quoted Aristotle, who said that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and he felt that MAG was the quintessential example of this saying. Chair LeVault stated that the Regional Council members are concerned for their individual jurisdictions, but reach out and act in a regional manner. He stated that this region has been working its way through difficult financial times, and cities and towns have figured out ways to do more with less or even with nothing. Chair LeVault stated that jurisdictions keep moving ahead and do things that are important to their constituents. He said that he felt the more successful we are in working together as a region, the more likely we are to continue to achieve regional potential. Chair LeVault expressed that his philosophy of public service can be summed up in a statement by a 19th century Jesuit priest, Father Strickland, "A man can do an immense amount of good if he does not care who gets the credit." Chair LeVault stated that he would be depending on MAG staff and he would be reaching out to Regional Council members for their input and guidance. Chair LeVault was applauded.

Chair LeVault introduced Mayor Alex Finter, Mesa, and presented him with his Regional Council membership certificate.

Chair LeVault noted that hearing assisted devices were available from MAG staff. Chair LeVault requested that members of the public who would like to comment fill out a blue public comment card for the Call to the Audience agenda item, or a yellow public comment card for Consent Agenda items or items on the agenda for action. Transit tickets for those who purchased a transit ticket to attend the meeting and parking validation were available from staff.

Chair LeVault that material for agenda item #10 was at each place and on each side of the room.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair LeVault noted that the Call to the Audience provides an opportunity to members of the audience who wish to speak on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens are requested to not exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes is provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit. Those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. Pat Vint, who expressed his thanks for being invited to MAG meetings, because the public is not welcome at the City of Phoenix meetings. He noted that the City of Phoenix has issued a new org chart and he observed that there was no line connecting the Public to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Vint thanked Chair LeVault for his comments about the service public servants should provide and to not rip off the public. Mr. Vint requested that those speaking turn on their microphones. He reported that Phoenix Councilman Jim Waring now publishes his own newsletter. Mr. Vint said that Councilman Waring and Councilman DiCiccio are the good guys

and Councilman Gates is coming around. He requested that cities look after the City of Phoenix, their big brother/big sister, because it is destroying the whole area. Mr. Vint stated that Mayor Weiers said that he does not want to contribute to the support of the Super Bowl because the entire state will benefit, but Mr. Vint indicated that the Valley will mostly benefit. He said that people might not be coming to visit because Phoenix is so great, but perhaps because the little cities are great. Mr. Vint expressed he was glad that Mayor Stanton was at the Regional Council meeting. He said he did not want to be negative but cannot help it when Phoenix does not value his input. Mr. Vint stated that omitting the line on the Phoenix org chart was done on purpose. He stated that the City of Phoenix is conducting budget hearings and the dumbest thing they have come up with is Phoenix will save \$800 million over 25 years but in the next few years is a disaster. Mr. Vint apologized for being so negative. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Vint for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. John Rusinek, who stated that he attended a Phoenix budget meeting at the Devonshire Center with Ed Zuercher and Councilman Sal DiCiccio. He said that he had asked them to look at the driveway relevant to his dust complaints (which is a 30-second drive) but they did not answer him and did go over there. Mr. Rusinek stated that yesterday he called city Neighborhood Services department with a complaint about a large boat and SUV parked on the city right-of-way, even though there are No Parking signs posted. He said that he was told this type of violation was not handled by Neighborhood Services and Mr. Rusinek would need to call the police. Mr. Rusinek said that the police said they would check it out even though it was not an emergency. He mentioned that the city fines people who park on non-dustproofed surfaces and there are supposed to be repercussions for violations. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Rusinek for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who expressed appreciation for Chair LeVault's comments and added that she could see he was very organized. Ms. Barker stated that she had biked to work, went to Earth Day and Zoomba, and used the reimbursement transit ticket she received from MAG. Ms. Barker encouraged people to get and move because sitting kills. She commented on the air quality and noted there was a public hearing on ozone. Ms. Barker noted that she had made a public video that was posted on Facebook called "Move." Ms. Barker then performed a series of acrobatic maneuvers and said that multimodal feels good. Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Dr. Marvin Rochelle, who expressed his appreciation that Interstate 11 is moving forward. Dr. Rochelle commented on his efforts for more than 15 years to get a refinery built outside Yuma. He said that having a refinery at that location would result in lower fuel prices for Arizona. Dr. Rochelle expressed his hope that the meetings with the mayors from Mexico are fruitful and this state will get oil. Chair LeVault thanked Dr. Rochelle for his comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, reported on items of interest to the MAG region. Mr. Smith stated that MAG sponsored a tour of undergraduate and graduate students from the Sonoran Institute of Technology (ITSON) with the Arizona Mexico Commission and the Phoenix Consul General of Mexico. He said locations on the tour included the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Arizona State University, Arizona Center for Algae Technology, United Dairymen

of Arizona, Ponderovey Dairy, Central Arizona Project, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association and Valley incubators. Mr. Smith noted that Alana Chávez-Langdon, MAG staff, coordinated this project.

Mr. Smith announced that MAG had received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2013. He congratulated the MAG Fiscal Services Division for their accomplishment and he noted that this is the 16th year in a row MAG has received the award.

Mr. Smith stated that the All Ages, One Region Conference was held on March 27, 2014, at the Glendale Civic Center. He noted that the City of Glendale was recognized as the winner of the 2014 Best Age-Friendly Community competition at the conference. Mr. Smith stated that the MAG region received a national award, the Best Intergenerational Community Award. He noted that speakers at the event included Chair LeVault, Councilmember Martinez of Glendale, Councilmember Osborne of Goodyear, and Robert W. Jones of Pfizer, Inc.

Mr. Smith stated that Governor Brewer and Mayor Smith of Mesa participated in the ribbon cutting for the opening of State Route 24/Gateway Freeway. He explained that the freeway's construction was accelerated through the use of Transportation Project Advancement Notes financing by the City of Mesa, saving approximately \$100 million in construction costs. Mr. Smith commented that this effort is a testament to the cooperative work between Mesa and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Mr. Smith recognized MAG's administrative staff in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. He introduced Amanda Grant, Constance Kish, Imelda Worley, Judy Tadlock, Kara Johnson, Cathleen Davidson, Melissa Varilek, Merry Holmgren, Cathy Shipley, Rachel Brito, and Valerie Day.

Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Smith for his report. He thanked staff for their hard work, which makes the agency look good.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair LeVault noted that agenda items #5A, #5B, and #5C were on the Consent Agenda.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Mr. Vint, who remarked that the City of Phoenix limits public comment to five items when 100 are on the agenda. He commented on agenda item #5B, which talks about 600 million, 120 million, and 35 million. Mr. Vint stated that he thought everyone ought to be living in Youngtown. He stated that a man came around and told him he should replace the flags he flies on his property because they are old. Mr. Vint stated that he did not want to be replaced because he was old. He stated that he was old enough to be the father of many Regional Council members and he wished he was because he would give some of them a whipping. Mr. Vint referenced the meeting with the Mayors from Mexico and said that MAG members need to take care of Phoenix and all of the illegals, which Jeb Bush says is an act of love. He asked how anyone could be so stupid and they were teaching people to be illegal.

Chair LeVault said that he wanted to provide Mr. Vint the opportunity to speak, but he would request that Mr. Vint limit his remarks to the agenda items.

Mr. Vint stated that all of the agenda items are problems; MAG has only ten problems on its agenda, but the City of Phoenix has 100 problems. He commented on Phoenix giving its city manager a raise when it is in a deficit. Mr. Vint urged members to help Phoenix, their big brother/sister. Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Vint for his comments.

Chair LeVault recognized public comment from Ms. Dianne Barker, who expressed her belief in flexible transportation and when Phoenix passed Transit 2000 they were to make the buses flexible. She offered a correction to the March 26, 2014, meeting minutes: "ADOT proposed a high speed train with three proposed routes – two to the East Valley and one down Interstate 10." Ms. Barker remarked that the way she understands the Open Meeting law an individual or a body can respond to criticism. Ms. Barker commented on agenda item #5B and said that these proposals come up through staff and contractors. She said that \$455 million in TIGER funds will be awarded to urban areas. Ms. Barker commented on the at-grade project and expressed her support for South Phoenix. She questioned where Phoenix would get the 60 percent local share and she did not support this application. Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chair LeVault asked members if they had questions or requests to hear a Consent Agenda item individually. None were noted.

Chair LeVault called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda items #6A, #6B, and #6C. Mayor Lana Mook moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Mike Farrar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5A. Approval of the March 26, 2014, Meeting Minutes

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved the March 26, 2014, meeting minutes.

5B. USDOT TIGER Grant Round 6 - FY 2014

The MAG Regional Council, by consent, approved supporting the Phoenix capital project on Central Avenue between Jefferson Street and Baseline Road and the Phoenix planning project in the same area, either as a joint project or a separate project, based on the feedback between the City of Phoenix and the U. S. Department of Transportation. On March 3, 2014, the federal government issued a notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the sixth round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant funding. A total of \$600 million is available through a multimodal, merit-based, competitive grant program. There is a set aside of \$120 million for rural areas and \$35 million for planning grants, which leaves \$445 million dedicated for projects in urban areas, such as the MAG region. MAG member agencies were requested to submit non-transit and planning projects by March 20, 2014. Support for the City of Phoenix TIGER application was recommended for approval by the MAG Transportation Review Committee on March 27, 2014, and by the MAG Management Committee on April 9, 2014.

5C. Status of Remaining MAG Approved PM-10 Certified Street Sweeper Projects That Have Not Requested Reimbursement

On April 7, 2014, MAG notified member agencies that they could now proceed with the procurement of proposed PM-10 certified street sweeper projects for FY 2014 CMAQ funding. A status report is being provided on the remaining PM-10 certified street sweeper projects that have received approval, but have not requested reimbursement. To address new Federal Highway Administration procedures to minimize inactive obligations and to assist MAG in reducing the amount of obligated federal funds carried forward in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, MAG requested that street sweeper projects for FY 2014 CMAQ funding be purchased and reimbursement requests be submitted to MAG by March 26, 2015.

6. Enhanced Online Mapping and Reporting Tools

Jason Howard, MAG staff, provided a demonstration of the online mapping and reporting tools that were developed mostly in-house at MAG. He acknowledged the assistance of MAG staff, Scott Bridwell and Vern Wolfley, on the development of this project. Mr. Howard said that the data for the demographic map viewer come from Census 2010 and the American Community Survey for Maricopa and Pinal Counties and are updated regularly. He noted that the website can be utilized on tablets and mobile devices. Mr. Howard stated that the data can be broken down by population, age, race, ethnicity, household income, population in poverty, educational attainment, housing metrics, seasonal vacancy rates, and home values. Mr. Howard pointed out that the data are available down to the block group level.

Mr. Howard spoke of the advance mapping options that offer different ways to break out the data. He stated that countywide and citywide summary reports can be run and printed. Mr. Howard noted that a report can compare a jurisdiction to a county or the state, and any of these reports can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet or converted to a PDF file.

Mr. Howard stated that in addition to the demographic viewer he demonstrated, MAG has viewers that show employment, land use, light rail, bikeways.

Mr. Smith noted that the maps can be utilized in Community Development Block Grant applications and grant applications. He noted that the data are constantly updated by MAG staff. Mr. Smith noted that MAG recently met with real estate professionals from the Chandler Air Park and was able to run a report in 15 seconds that the business had been working on for three days. He stated that MAG has plans to host workshops to demonstrate the functionality of the tool. Mr. Smith noted that another use for the tool is in the human services field.

7. MAG Human Services Provider Inventory Update

Amy St. Peter, MAG staff, provided a report on the MAG Human Services Provider Inventory. She said that human services transportation serves older adults and persons with low incomes or disabilities. Ms. St. Peter noted that this region has significant assets in transportation but there are not enough to meet the growing need for transportation as people age. She said that as older adults give up their keys, they

very often give up connections to family and friends, medical care, and opportunities to contribute to their communities.

Ms. St. Peter stated that MAG is reaching out through a variety of activities to support communities in meeting the transportation needs of their residents. She reported that recently, MAG hosted more than 200 people at the All Ages, One Region Conference at the Glendale Civic Center. Ms. St. Peter expressed appreciation to the City of Glendale for their assistance on the conference.

Ms. St. Peter stated that MAG provides technical assistance to communities wanting to improve the connections older adults have to people of all ages. Transportation is often the biggest barrier. She said that MAG is supporting pilot projects in Tempe, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and the Northwest Valley. Wickenburg is the newest pilot project. Ms. St. Peter expressed that she hoped to work with all member agencies.

Ms. St. Peter explained that www.Connect60Plus.com is another resource available to everyone at any time. The website includes a variety of opportunities to connect to resources, information, and people in the community.

Ms. St. Peter stated that one of the more important features on the website is the MAG Human Services Transportation Provider Inventory. MAG develops the inventory each year as one of the elements required in the human services transportation coordination plans. Ms. St. Peter stated that the inventory was available previously only in hard copy format, but was not searchable; having the inventory electronically online allows for searches and interactivity.

Ms. St. Peter demonstrated the online functions of the database, which can be filtered for service area, modes of transportation, and eligibility, to provide the most appropriate transportation solution. She pointed out that clicking on the fields allows the user to control the information they receive. Clicking on the blue crosses provides more detailed information about that particular service, including the ability to link to the agency's website.

Ms. St. Peter stated that nonprofit, for profit, and transit options are available through the inventory. Data are kept current by MAG staff who contact the providers on an annual basis for updates. Ms. St. Peter stated that the inventory is being used by people in this region, as well as by people across the country. In particular, adult children who live elsewhere are using the site to assist their aging parents who live here.

Ms. St. Peter stated that this is an opportunity for cities and towns to include information about Human Services Transportation Provider Inventory in their newsletters and websites. She added that the inventory is available on www.connect60plus.com and on the MAG website.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. St. Peter for her report and asked members if they had questions.

Mayor Kavanagh expressed her appreciation to Ms. St. Peter for coming to Fountain Hills and meeting and providing assistance to staff.

Chair LeVault stated that this effort is breaking new ground as the region continues to age. He expressed appreciation that older citizens are able to see the compendium of services that are available in the region.

8. Update on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and Exceptional Events

Lindy Bauer, MAG staff, reported that on February 6, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice proposing to approve the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10. She noted that comments were due on the plan by March 10, 2014.

Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest submitted comments urging EPA to reconsider its proposed approval of the plan. She noted that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest also submitted an independent analysis of the July 18, 2011, exceptional event. Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest feels that the Plan failed to include best available control measures and most stringent measures.

Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest went through the comments included in the notice published by EPA in September 2010 when EPA was proposing partial approval and partial disapproval.

Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest also feels that the Plan does not adequately address control measures for agricultural emissions. In addition, the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest questioned the effectiveness of the dust action general permit held by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest questioned EPA's approval of 131 exceedances of the PM-10 standard due to exceptional events.

Ms. Bauer stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest questioned the EPA's finding that the region had met the standard because EPA has not taken action on 2013 exceptional events. She stated that the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest questioned the contingency measures in the plan that were implemented early rather than later. Ms. Bauer stated that EPA will be addressing comments.

Ms. Bauer stated that several letters in support of the EPA proposed approval of the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan were also submitted – from Senator Jeff Flake, MAG, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Maricopa County Air Quality Department, the City of Phoenix, businesses and industries.

Ms. Bauer spoke of the six exceptional events that occurred in 2013. She said that MAG prepared five of the demonstration packages and all of them have been put out for public review and submitted to EPA. Ms. Bauer noted that there have been no exceedances of the PM-10 standard and no exceptional events in 2014.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Bauer for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

9. Update on Second Binational Economic Forum, Nogales, Sonora

Alana Chávez-Langdon stated that approximately 230 people attended the Second Binational Economic Forum that was held on April 10-11, 2014, in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Ms. Chávez-Langdon stated that approximately 90 to 100 people from Arizona attended the forum, including 32 local elected officials and Ken Strobeck from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. She noted that 30 local elected officials from Mexico attended the forum.

Ms. Chávez-Langdon stated that the main purpose of the forum was to convene local elected officials from Arizona and Sonora to discuss regional initiatives in both states as well as sign a partnering agreement to collaborate on developing an Arizona-Sonora Megaregion, similar to the CaliBaja model, which was done in 2008 by San Diego, Imperial County, and Baja California. Ms. Chávez-Langdon stated that a binational megaregion is envisioned to provide a framework to advance projects of local and regional significance on a global scale.

Ms. Chávez-Langdon acknowledged the presentations by Christina Luhn and Manuel Rubio on the CaliBaja project, and she noted that it was enlightening for attendees to hear of their experiences and how they relate to the Arizona/Sonora effort. She displayed photographs taken at the event. Ms. Chávez-Langdon noted that the City of Nogales hosted the costs of the forum and she expressed appreciation to everyone who attended the event.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Chávez-Langdon for her report and asked if there were questions or comments.

Mr. Smith noted that the Sonora representatives were invited by Ken Strobeck to attend the League of Arizona Cities and Towns conference in August. He said that it is anticipated that there will be one or two workshops at the conference. Mr. Smith advised that the Sonora representatives formed their own municipal association that morning. He said that their organization is similar to the League, which was formed in 1937.

Chair LeVault noted that the megaregion is a potential game changer. He said that officials attended to build trade and trust. Chair LeVault stated that for the first time, Mexico is building a true middle class and he urged providing assistance to them where possible. He expressed appreciation for the efforts in organizing the event. Ms. Chávez-Langdon noted the assistance of MAG staff members Denise McClafferty and Linda Priano.

Mayor Stanton asked about the event next year. Ms. Chávez-Langdon replied that they are considering an April or May timeframe and she added that one of the locations being considered is Puerto Peñasco, Mexico.

10. Nominating Committee

Chair LeVault stated that annually, the Chair of the Regional Council appoints a five-member Nominating Committee from the Regional Council. He noted that a memorandum announcing his appointments was at each place. Chair LeVault stated that the members of the Nominating Committee include Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale, Chair; Councilmember Mike Farrar, Town of

Carefree; Mayor John Lewis, Town of Gilbert; Mayor Georgia Lord, City of Goodyear; and Mayor Tom Schoaf, City of Litchfield Park. Chair LeVault thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for agreeing to serve.

Chair LeVault stated that the Nominating Committee will develop a slate of seven candidates. These candidates include a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, the Past Chair, and three members at-large. If the Past Chair is not a current member of the Council, the Nominating Committee nominates an additional at-large member. The past Chair of the Regional Council, if still a current member, serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is required to provide a balanced slate of officers. The slate of nominations is forwarded to all of the Regional Council members at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting in June.

Mr. Smith noted that the memorandum soliciting letters of interest will be mailed out to Regional Council members immediately.

11. Development of the FY 2015 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Becky Kimbrough, MAG staff, reported that the Draft MAG Work Program and Annual Budget have been presented incrementally to MAG committees each month beginning in January, with final approval in May.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the budget proposes a new GIS Analyst I position in the Information Services Division, to assist in such tasks as maintaining regional datasets, creating new labor datasets, making enhancements to the employer database, and creating a job center online data viewer. She noted that staff was available at the meeting to answer any questions on this position. No questions were noted.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that due to the downturn in the economy, salary increases were not proposed in FY 2010 and FY 2012. Ms. Kimbrough stated that in 2011, MAG proposed a salary increase based on the results of an independent compensation study. She added that salary increases were proposed for FY 2013 and FY 2014. Ms. Kimbrough stated that a budgeted salary increase of up to 4.64 percent, with a maximum of \$375,000, is being proposed for FY 2015, and she added that any increases to salaries would be performance based. Ms. Kimbrough stated that MAG staff receive an annual performance evaluation every June and, based on their performance for the year, may receive a salary increase if one is included in the budget. She added that this would equate to an average increase over the last five years of 3.27 percent.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that a Bicycle and Pedestrian Associate for \$26,500 has been added to the proposed projects for the MAG bicycle and pedestrian program.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the Intermodal Planning Group meeting was held March 28, 2014. She explained that this meeting included a review of the draft FY 2015 MAG budget by MAG's partners: the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), City of Phoenix and other interested parties. Ms. Kimbrough stated that presentations were made by MAG, City of Phoenix, and Valley Metro. These presentations were well received and discussions among the group on the elements of the Work Program were very positive. She stated that no changes were recommended and closing comments noted that the MAG work program

is a valuable guide and that MAG's project work is "best in class." Ms. Kimbrough stated that if any formal comments from this meeting are forthcoming, they will be presented to MAG committees.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that the changes she reported were the only remaining budget items that have not been covered in previous presentations on the proposed budget for FY 2015. She stated that next month, the complete draft detailed budget document will be submitted to members for approval.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. Kimbrough for her report. No questions from the Council were noted.

12. Legislative Update

Nathan Pryor, MAG staff, provided an update on legislative issues of interest. Mr. Pryor first addressed State legislation. He said that the FY 2015 budget includes a transfer of \$89 million in Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) to the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Pryor stated that in January 2014, the MAG Regional Council sent a letter to the House, Senate and Governor requesting an end to HURF sweeps. One of the related budget provisions (Senate Bill 1487) includes directing \$30 million in HURF to counties and municipalities in percentages reflecting current non state distribution of HURF revenues. The proposal also includes \$60 million for each of the next two fiscal years with the same provisions.

Mr. Pryor stated that a letter in opposition to House Bill 2069 was sent to members of the Arizona House from the councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations within Arizona. He explained that House Bill 2069 would prevent future employees of political subdivision entities, like MAG, from being enrolled in the Arizona State Retirement System. Mr. Pryor advised that House Bill 2069 stalled, but provisions in that bill were proposed as an amendment to Senate Bill 1082. Mr. Pryor stated that the proposed amendment did fail, and it appears that momentum has been addressed for this legislative session. Mr. Pryor expressed appreciation for the support of member agency elected officials, managers, staff, and intergovernmental representatives on this effort. He noted that ASRS is an important tool for recruiting and retaining staff.

Mr. Pryor reported that MAP-21, the federal transportation legislation, is set to expire at the end of September 2014. Mr. Pryor stated that MAG has been working with two national associations – the National Association of Regional Councils and the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors – to address legislative provisions in the next surface transportation authorization. He noted that these associations have recently been meeting with House Transportation and Infrastructure staff in preparation for new and/or revised legislation. MAG continues to push for streamlining of processes, and greater decision-making and more direct funding for large MPOs.

Mr. Pryor reported that the House Budget Committee chair, Congressman Ryan, has released a proposed budget for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015. The proposed House budget would constrain transportation spending significantly. At this time, it is uncertain if the Senate will entertain an FFY 2015 budget or continuing resolutions.

Mr. Pryor stated that the Highway Trust Fund is expected to be insolvent by late summer. He explained that in past years, Congress and the Administration have transferred general fund revenues to fill shortfalls. It is uncertain if that will occur this year. Mr. Pryor remarked that this could mean potential delays in reimbursing program spending to states, regions and local governments. He added that the

White House is planning an announcement on transportation issues related to the insolvency, and he would keep members updated.

Chair LeVault thanked Mr. Pryor for his report and asked members if they had questions.

Mayor Stanton expressed his appreciation to Governor Brewer for vetoing the bill regarding guns in public places. He added that this legislation would have resulted in significant costs to cities, in addition to other negative impacts. Mayor Stanton noted that the Governor specifically mentioned the negative impacts to cities' fiscal budgets as one of the reasons for the veto. He also expressed his appreciation to Mayor Rogers and anyone else who contacted the Governor regarding this bill.

13. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Regional Council would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting were requested.

No requests were noted.

14. Comments from the Council

An opportunity was provided for Regional Council members to present a brief summary of current events. The Regional Council is not allowed to propose, discuss, deliberate or take action at the meeting on any matter in the summary, unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mayor Stanton referenced the conference being hosted by Phoenix and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in August 2014 to which elected officials from Mexico had been invited. He welcomed any ideas for the conference that would celebrate this growing partnership between Arizona and Mexico.

Chair LeVault reiterated what an honor it is for him to chair MAG, and he expressed that he looked forward to working with everyone.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary